

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0077601 to Kawagishi et al. ("Kawagishi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites that the control unit causes the push member "to gradually increase an injection speed of the anesthetic in the beginning of the injection and to move the push member to inject the anesthetic in a constant injection speed after a predetermined time has elapsed." The change from a low speed to a higher speed is to reduce the pain felt by a patient at the beginning of the injection. *See*, Specification, page 5, lines 5-9.

In contrast, this element is not disclosed by Kawagishi. Kawagishi, at best, discloses a motorized dental injector that has a gear reduction system to allow for a slow and steady injection speed. *See*, Kawagishi, paragraph [0022]. Further, Kawagishi is silent as to any feature that would start with a low injection speed and then increase to a higher speed. Thus, Kawagishi does not disclose or suggest every element of claim 1.

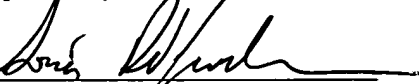
Claims 11-13 of the present invention disclose a cartridge holder which is capable of holding cartridges of different lengths. In contrast, Kawagishi does not disclose any such capability for holding cartridges of different lengths. Further, these claims depend from claim 1 and are allowable based at least upon the arguments above regarding claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1 and 11-13.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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